

Patten Seed Company

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4 February 2003

Mr. William T. Sessions
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
Country of Origin Labeling
Stop 0249 Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-2049

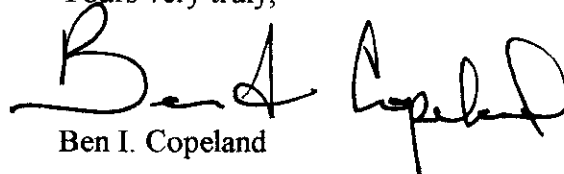
Dear Mr. Sessions:

We own approximately 1500 acres of Pecan Orchards in South and Middle Georgia on which we produce and market 1,000,000+ pounds of nuts each year. While I support free trade, I also firmly support the Country of Origin Labeling Bill but am very disappointed that it does not include pecans. The market for our pecans is impacted every year by imports from other countries and I believe the consumer has a right to know where food products are coming from.

I request the USDA to take whatever steps necessary to include pecans in the Country of Origin Labeling.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours very truly,


Ben I. Copeland

BIC:jp

cc: Senator Saxby Chambliss
Congressman Jack Kingston



CANONGATE GOLF CLUBS

Zenith Zoysia

CentiSeed

SuperSod
A DIVISION OF PATTEN SEED COMPANY